

1 CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO

2 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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4
5 **TRANSCRIPT OF**

6 **JUNE 22, 2020, MEETING**

7 **VIRTUAL MEETING**
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12 Transcript of Proceedings of the North Canton
13 City Council, taken by me, the undersigned, Laurie Maryl
14 Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in
15 and for the State of Ohio, at the North Canton Civic
16 Center, 845 West Maple Street, North Canton, Ohio, on
17 Monday, June 22, 2020, at 7:03 p.m.
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24 **Premier Court Reporting**
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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Daniel Jeff Peters, Council President, Ward 2

3 Daryl Revoldt, Council Vice President, At Large

4 Doug Foltz, Ward 1

5 Stephanie Werren, Ward 3

6 Dominic Fonte, Ward 4

7 Mark R. Cerreta, At Large

8 Matthew Stroia, At Large

9 Patrick A. DeOrio, Director of Administration

10 Timothy L. Fox, Director of Law

11 Jina Alaback, Director of Finance

12 Robert G. Graham, Engineering Services

13 Catherine A. Farina, Deputy Director of
Administration and Development

14 Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor

15 Martin Van Gundy IV, Chief Building Officer

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1 MR. PETERS: Okay. At this time, I'd like to
2 call to order the North Canton city council meeting
3 June 22, 2020. The time is 7:03 p.m.

4 Opening prayer. Mark? Dominic?

5 MR. CERRETA: Dom, would you like to do that
6 tonight?

7 MR. FONTE: Yes, I would.

8 Thank you, Lord, thank you for the
9 opportunity to let us share our community thoughts
10 and look out for the interest of the majority. In
11 God's name, we want to make sure we are always doing
12 our level best to do the right thing. I wish that
13 all of us will enjoy our summer and be safe from
14 COVID. Amen.

15 MR. PETERS: At this time, if you would
16 please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

17 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

18 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, folks.

19 All right, Ben. At this time if you could
20 please call the roll.

21 MR. YOUNG: Member Foltz?

22 MR. FOLTZ: Here.

23 MR. YOUNG: Member Peters?

24 MR. PETERS: Here.

25 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia?

1 MR. STROIA: Here.

2 MR. YOUNG: Member Cerreta?

3 MR. CERRETA: Here.

4 MR. YOUNG: Member Fonte?

5 MR. FONTE: Here.

6 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt?

7 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

8 MR. YOUNG: And Member Werren?

9 MRS. WERREN: Here.

10 MR. YOUNG: Seven present.

11 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you very much.

12 And for your consideration tonight, I need a
13 motion and a second to approve as presented minutes
14 from June 1, 2020, public meeting on Ordinance 23-20,
15 minutes from June 1, 2020, special committee of the
16 whole, and minutes from June 8, 2020, city council
17 meeting.

18 MR. FOLTZ: Motion to approve as presented.

19 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta. Second.

20 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

21 ("Aye" in unison.)

22 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
23 carries.

24 At this time, we will move into recognition
25 of visitors. Ben, I will turn it over to you.

1 A quick reminder, there is a five-minute time
2 limit and have at it.

3 MR. YOUNG: All right. Up first is Mr. Chuck
4 Osborne.

5 Mr. Osborne, are you there?

6 MR. OSBORNE: I am here.

7 MR. YOUNG: When you're ready, sir.

8 MR. OSBORNE: Okay. Chuck Osborne. 307
9 Fairview Street, Southeast, North Canton, Ohio.

10 I'm addressing the third reading of Ordinance
11 No. 19-2020 which proposes to resurrect the city's
12 CRA program. The legislation as proposed by North
13 Canton's chairman of economic development is
14 fashioned to encourage the removal of substandard
15 housing in the city and rebuild back, on the same
16 property, a structure valued at a minimum of \$250,000
17 with tax abatements. This would be a noble outcome
18 if this were a realistic, doable activity from the
19 vantage point of a prospective homeowner. I contend
20 that, despite the fact that the program offers
21 generous abatement of property taxes, that homeowners
22 will see the downsides of this situation and will not
23 participate for several reasons.

24 I will explain using the figures offered by
25 economic committee chairperson Daryl Revoldt in his

1 color slide presentation from two weeks ago. In that
2 presentation, Mr. Revoldt uses four properties in the
3 city, one from each of the North Canton's four wards
4 as examples of where this legislation could be
5 instrumental in revitalizing property. Mr. Revoldt
6 refused to give me exact parcel number or addresses
7 of these examples for reasons only known to him. The
8 average cost to acquire these properties, land and
9 existing structure, was \$98,800. Stated demolition
10 costs were said to be 15,000. In total, this brings
11 the cost of buying a building lot to \$113,850. It
12 doesn't take much thought for buyers to conclude
13 that, in the long haul, they would be much better off
14 to acquire a ready-to-build site in an area with
15 other homes valued in the range of a \$250,000 home
16 they are required to build under this CRA
17 legislation.

18 In addition, prospective buyers would also
19 conclude that building in a development such as
20 Monticello or The Sanctuary would naturally insulate
21 and protect their investment that they would have to
22 make to meet the requirements of the CRA abatement.
23 Consequently, there would be no interest in what this
24 CRA legislation has to offer for owner-occupied
25 prospective homeowners. How many members of council

1 think it would be a good investment for someone to
2 spend \$363,850 to acquire a lot in their neighborhood
3 and build a \$250,000 house. Is it even possible to
4 build a \$250,000 home on a lot in your neighborhood?
5 Would participants in this program need to purchase
6 two lots and demolish two structures to meet setback
7 and other code requirements? Obviously this would
8 greatly increase land acquisition costs for a
9 building site.

10 How many people do you know who, 1, shop for
11 property in need of demolition in the city of North
12 Canton; 2, qualify for a mortgage approaching
13 400,000; 3, are willing to wait months and months for
14 completion of construction; 4, want to move into a
15 home that is surrounded by homes that are worth a
16 fraction of what they just expended for their new
17 home, and 5, realize that many of the homes in their
18 neighborhood are single-family rentals. These are
19 the thought processes that prospective home buyers
20 would run through in their decision-making process.

21 Multi-millionaire developers, on the other
22 hand, would love the corporate charity this provides
23 them. It would spur construction of more rentals in
24 North Canton and provide them with tax abatements to
25 boot. In effect, it would provide for what we saw

1 just a few years ago with North Ridge Place
2 Apartments. I am talking about the tax abatement
3 given to a 40-unit apartment complex on North Main
4 Street. If you have forgotten, that is where
5 investors in a 40-unit complex were given a nearly
6 \$1 million tax abatement and every elected city
7 official claimed they knew nothing about it. The CRA
8 legislation would now make such abatements a common,
9 everyday practice.

10 I ask that each and every member of city
11 council think this legislation through for themselves
12 and vote with an independent mind. Do not be
13 persuaded with a color slide and a snake oil
14 presentation offering unattainable results. Shelve
15 this legislation so that North Canton city schools do
16 not suffer a loss of tax revenue but can continue to
17 remain academically and financially strong.

18 And I am also very much opposed to sticking
19 an amphitheater on a postage stamp in Bitzer Park.
20 Put it in an area that would be more utilitarian and
21 more useful for the citizens of North Canton.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. PETERS: Thank you, chuck.

24 MR. FONTE: Thank you.

25 MR. YOUNG: Up next is Miss Rita Palmer.

1 There she is.

2 MS. PALMER: Can you hear me?

3 MR. YOUNG: We can hear you.

4 MS. PALMER: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

5 My name is Rita Palmer, and I live at 307
6 Fairview Street, Southeast, in North Canton.

7 Tonight I would like to speak in opposition
8 to placing a bandstand in Bitzer Park. The first
9 reason that I am against this action is that concerts
10 and similar activities will further encourage the
11 desecration of the veterans memorial that was
12 established in the park in 2010. This area should be
13 respected and not used as a children's playground and
14 stroller parking lot where people of all ages can
15 walk on the dedicated bricks while they try to find a
16 flat area to place a folding chair for a concert.

17 Secondly, during past events such as the
18 Christmas tree lighting, citizens have had to crawl
19 all over every inch of space to get near the speaker.
20 With concerts, listeners will be sitting on the
21 grass, stepping on the flowers, tossing their
22 cigarette butts and candy wrappers on the ground and
23 spreading out on the sidewalks of Main and East
24 Maple. All nearby streets will need to be closed for
25 every scheduled event because the location is too

1 small for such activities.

2 A third reason to oppose making the park into
3 a concert venue is that you plan to cut 27 of the 34
4 mature trees from the park. What makes a park a park
5 are trees. Have you forgotten the hundreds of trees
6 that were removed to the east of Bitzer Park to
7 create not a park but a parking lot? Have you not
8 learned anything about beautifying the inner core of
9 our city? The renovated Bitzer Park might as well be
10 called Bitzer Car Park or Bitzer Super Slab.

11 The bandstand belongs in Dogwood Park or
12 Price Park where there's already ample room for cars
13 and people and a new pavilion for bands and speakers.
14 There are reasons for holding fairs, fireworks, art
15 shows, and tag sales at these wide-open locations.
16 You have room there and do not need to destroy the
17 park to make it better.

18 Finally, because I know you will likely
19 ignore everything I just said, let me add this. Put
20 the bandstand on the front lawn of the former Hoover
21 property between Church and East Maple Street. Make
22 the area an expanded park. Add Maple Street --
23 excuse me -- maple trees like in the old days. Put
24 in a circle of flags. Give us citizens something to
25 see besides windows into an everlasting contaminated

1 construction site. Remember, you were elected to
2 represent us, not frustrate and ignore us citizens.
3 As Dominic said in the opening prayer, please, do the
4 right things.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. YOUNG: And, finally, we have
7 Mr. Blubaugh.

8 Mr. Blubaugh, are you there?

9 MR. BLUBAUGH: Yes, I am.

10 MR. YOUNG: When you're ready.

11 MR. BLUBAUGH: Hello. This is Joseph
12 Blubaugh at 256 Glenwood Street, Southwest.

13 Tonight I'd like to talk about -- I'd like to
14 talk about the Bitzer Park improvement issue, but
15 first I just want to mention concerning the CRA that
16 I wrote an e-mail to city council on June 11 so I
17 hope that you all received that and you had a chance
18 to analyze the data that I presented.

19 Concerning Bitzer Park improvements that were
20 passed as an emergency ordinance two weeks ago, the
21 council asked the city to have Ohio Department of
22 Natural Resources urban forester Lola Lewis review
23 the plan and to be open to possible modifications
24 based on her professional advice. Of particular
25 concern was the plan to remove most of the large

1 trees in the park.

2 In its special council meeting on June 10,
3 council repeated its request that the city contact
4 Lola Lewis and invite her to review the Bitzer plan
5 for possible changes to incorporate some --
6 incorporate some of the current large trees. Parks
7 Superintendent Brian Hill did contact Lola Lewis on
8 Friday, June 12, but, instead of inviting her to
9 review the plans, he informed her that the plans were
10 too far along to be modified, which is exactly the
11 opposite of what city council asked the city to do.

12 Since as of last Friday, June 19, Ms. Lewis
13 was still not invited by the city to review the
14 plans, I decided to start an online petition for
15 residents of North Canton. It can be found at
16 www.gopetition.com, and it reads as follows: Bitzer
17 Park is a small park in the city -- in the center of
18 North Canton, Ohio. It contains a veterans memorial,
19 paths and benches and 34 large, mature trees which
20 surround an open, grassy area. City council recently
21 passed an ordinance to build a bandstand and outdoor
22 seating in the open, grassy area. The bandstand will
23 be a nice addition to the park. However, the plans
24 also call for the removal of 27 of the 34 large
25 trees, to be replaced by fewer, small immature trees.

1 The bandstand could be built by removing only one
2 large tree. The other 26 large trees could remain if
3 the new planned walkways were slightly modified.

4 In particular, the 12 large trees along Main
5 and Maple streets are not near the planned bandstand
6 or even the new walkways but are still planned to be
7 removed. Just as the plans preserve the current
8 veterans memorial, they should also preserve as many
9 of the current large trees as possible. Large trees
10 are what makes a park enjoyable. And then the
11 statement that anyone signing the petition said that
12 we, the undersigned, call on the City of North Canton
13 to modify the plan for the Bitzer Park improvement to
14 preserve as many of the large trees as possible, in
15 particular, the 12 large trees along Main and Maple
16 Streets. I published the petition yesterday morning,
17 and, as of this afternoon, more than 170 people have
18 signed it.

19 It was mentioned on June 8 that some
20 community groups -- June 8, when this ordinance was
21 passed, it was mentioned on June 8 that some
22 community groups were consulted during the planning
23 stage, but were any citizens consulted? And even
24 those who were consulted, were they asked only about
25 the bandstand or also about the removal of the trees?

1 I think by the large response to the petition about
2 the trees, we can see what the answer would have been
3 had they been asked. You can't have an enjoyable
4 park without large trees. Spending money to destroy
5 large, beautiful trees and then spending more money
6 to plant new, tiny trees wastes money and makes a
7 park look more like a parking lot.

8 Plants should be -- the plans should be
9 modified before bidding to separate out the
10 construction of the bandstand from the remodeling of
11 the walkways and sidewalks. Only one large tree must
12 be removed to construct the bandstand while all the
13 other tree removal is for the new walkways and
14 sidewalks. In fact, the new sidewalks along Main and
15 Maple streets will be no wider than the current one
16 but the plan still calls for destroying all 12 large
17 trees along those streets.

18 Sidewalks can be built to accommodate the
19 roots of nearby trees and still be ADA compliant. It
20 is not necessary to take out the nearby trees. In
21 this way, the bandstand construction could move
22 forward while a review is made and separate plans
23 agreed to and then bid out for the walkways and
24 sidewalks.

25 We all want to do what is best for North

1 Canton. We all want the city to prosper and grow and
2 be an enjoyable place to live. However, the current
3 Bitzer plan to remove the trees would both cost the
4 city unnecessarily and benefit no one. To make North
5 Canton better, we must do things that benefit
6 everyone, like building the Bitzer bandstand and
7 making downtown more attractive by preserving the
8 large trees that are in Bitzer Park. That is what
9 will bring more people to North Canton and keep our
10 property values high.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Joe.

13 MR. FONTE: Thanks, Joe.

14 MR. PETERS: Okay. Ben, that concludes our
15 visitors?

16 MR. YOUNG: Yes, sir.

17 MR. PETERS: Okay. All right. Thank you
18 all.

19 All right. Next on the agenda, Old Business.
20 May I have a motion and a second to read by title
21 only Ordinance 19-20.

22 MR. FONTE: Okay. Hey, can you exclude me,
23 please? It's Dom.

24 MR. PETERS: Oh, yeah.

25 MR. STROIA: And also Stroia, please.

1 MR. PETERS: Yes. So let the Record reflect
2 that Members Fonte and Stroia removed themselves from
3 this. Ben, can you put them on mute?

4 MR. YOUNG: Yes, sir.

5 MR. PETERS: Okay. So I've asked for a
6 motion and a second to read by title only Ordinance
7 19-20.

8 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

9 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta. Second.

10 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

11 ("Aye" in unison.)

12 MR. PETERS: All right. Motion carries.
13 Tim?

14 MR. FOX: An ordinance implementing Sections
15 3735.65 through 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code,
16 establishing and describing the boundaries of a
17 community reinvestment area in the city of North
18 Canton, designating a housing officer to administer
19 the program, creating a community reinvestment area
20 housing council, and a tax incentive review council.

21 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

22 Chairman Revoldt.

23 MR. REVOLDT: Thank you very much.

24 Council, in your packets tonight you have an
25 amended copy of what you have previously voted on. I

1 will bring your attention -- and I'll have a motion
2 to amend, but I bring your attention to Section
3 5(a)1, which is on the bottom of page -- or it's on
4 page 2 about midway down, and 5(a)1 which limits the
5 single-family projects to no more than 10 per year.
6 Okay? So we imposed a small cap.

7 The second amendment, which is new for
8 tonight, which is at the bottom of page 2, the final
9 paragraph, and it says that when council determines
10 construction or remodeling of a commercial or
11 industrial property may involve exemption, it
12 shall -- the city shall, at the earliest possible
13 time, notify the appropriate board of education and
14 assist in the negotiations if the superintendent
15 deems it appropriate. So the idea is to advise our
16 partner at the earliest possible time so it can
17 prepare for any negotiations on a commercial
18 industrial project that might come along. So they
19 have got some time to think it through and,
20 importantly is, that if the superintendent deems it
21 appropriate, the city would be willing to assist in
22 any negotiations. So we would go into it hopefully
23 as a partner.

24 So those are the two amendments. Are there
25 any questions or comments?

1 MR. FOX: This is Tim. I just have a caveat
2 for the first amendment.

3 MR. REVOLDT: Tim?

4 MR. FOX: Because of residential CRA
5 applications are earned in historically by statute
6 and ordinance when the project is completed, but
7 generally those that are going to invest and do these
8 types of projects normally will contact the housing
9 officer perhaps before they begin, ask questions,
10 review if this is sufficient, what types of things
11 can lead to the exemptions, but the application
12 itself, unlike for commercial and industrial, for the
13 residential it's only at the end. It's only when
14 it's done that they turn in the application. And
15 although I think it's going to be highly unlikely
16 that we would have more than ten that would reach for
17 this type of amendment with that price tag on it, I
18 think that the city would want to just advertise
19 highly and make sure that information is out there
20 because what could occur in the wholly unlikely event
21 is that number 11 shows up and ten are done. Now,
22 that next one could apply to the next year.

23 MR. REVOLDT: Yep.

24 MR. FOX: But they would be reduced a year.
25 So in the unlikely event that someone is pursuing

1 this and not contacting anyone at the city and then
2 wishes to turn in 11, still council can take a look
3 at that, but I think if the administration housing
4 officer is -- you know, does a good job in getting
5 that information out, especially if we have
6 applications that are approved or turned in during
7 the year so someone would know, you know, maybe it
8 would be better next year to -- to finish the project
9 to take the full advantage of the tax exemption.

10 MR. REVOLDT: Well, Tim, I don't think we're
11 going to get caught by surprise on this because you
12 need to have a demolition permit. So somebody is
13 going to have to come into the city to get a permit
14 for demo.

15 MR. FOX: Yes, sir.

16 MR. REVOLDT: And here's the other point is
17 this: Is that if this program is operated properly,
18 this puts a little pressure on the administration.
19 You're going to have -- we should have an annual
20 review so this thing should -- the housing council
21 should meet, TIRC. It should come back in front of
22 this council or a council for analysis. And, as I've
23 said before, this is an experiment. We're going to
24 see if it works. And I'm not as pessimistic as
25 Mr. Osborne. Now, I know, for example, over at

1 Orchard Hill School there's a demo that went down.
2 One of the houses -- the house is down, there's a new
3 one being built on the property, there's a second one
4 being built behind it. Now, are those -- is the new
5 construction, does it exceed the value of the
6 neighborhood? The answer is yes, it does. And if
7 you go over on to Summit and -- Summit and Glenwood,
8 the homes there generally exceed the value of the
9 homes -- some of the homes around them, particularly
10 over on Cordelia. So I'm guardedly optimistic this
11 is worth trying.

12 So any other questions or comments about the
13 amendments?

14 MR. FOLTZ: Yeah. Member Foltz. Comment.
15 Let's hope we have that problem where we have more
16 than ten.

17 MR. REVOLDT: Oh, yes.

18 MR. FOLTZ: They figure out how to make it
19 all work because that means it's successful.

20 MR. REVOLDT: Yeah.

21 MR. FOLTZ: So let's be enthusiastic and give
22 it a try. That's my comment. Thank you, Daryl.

23 MR. REVOLDT: Absolutely. We'll look at it
24 in a year.

25 Okay. If there aren't any other comments or

1 questions, then can I have a motion to adopt the
2 third reading of Ordinance --

3 MR. YOUNG: You need to amend first, Daryl.

4 MR. REVOLDT: For the amendments. I need a
5 motion to amend Ordinance 19-2020.

6 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta. Motion to amend.

7 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt will second.

8 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

9 ("Aye" in unison.)

10 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

11 MR. REVOLDT: Now can we have a motion to
12 adopt as amended Ordinance 19-2020.

13 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz motions.

14 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt seconds.

15 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

16 ("Aye" in unison.)

17 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

18 Ben, can you bring Members Stroia and Fonte
19 back into the meeting. Let the Record reflect they
20 have rejoined.

21 MR. YOUNG: Yes, sir.

22 MR. PETERS: Okay. And we're good to go.

23 MR. YOUNG: I believe so. They say they're
24 unmuted.

25 MR. FONTE: I'm unmuted.

1 MR. STROIA: Yeah.

2 MR. PETERS: Okay. All right. At this time
3 may I have a motion and a second to read by title
4 only Ordinance 27-20.

5 MR. FOLTZ: So moved by Foltz.

6 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt seconds.

7 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."
8 ("Aye" in unison.)

9 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.
10 Tim?

11 MR. FOX: An ordinance to amend Chapter 111
12 of the codified ordinances of the City of North
13 Canton, specifically Section 111.12, Salaries and
14 Bonds, in order to establish amounts for public
15 officials surety bonds.

16 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Tim.

17 This is the third and final reading. This
18 establishes that council shall set salaries and bonds
19 for all elected officials, appointed officials, city
20 employees, the mayor and the director of
21 administration shall get bond in the amount of 50,000
22 and the director of finance in the amount of 250,000.

23 Any questions before the third reading?
24 Seeing none, may I have a motion and a second to
25 adopt the third reading of Ordinance 27-20.

1 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

2 MRS. WERREN: Second. Werren.

3 MR. STROIA: Stroia. Second.

4 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

5 ("Aye" in unison.)

6 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
7 carries.

8 May I have a motion and a second to read by
9 title only Ordinance 30-20.

10 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

11 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz. Second.

12 MRS. WERREN: Werren. Second.

13 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

14 ("Aye" in unison.)

15 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

16 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta. Abstain.

17 MR. PETERS: Cerreta abstain. Motion
18 approved, passes 6-0.

19 Tim?

20 MR. FOX: An ordinance authorizing the
21 appropriation of funds of the City of North Canton to
22 be appropriated from the unappropriated --

23 MR. PETERS: Is Tim on mute?

24 MR. FOX: Sorry. Maybe I am. Can you hear
25 me now? All right.

1 An ordinance authorizing the appropriation of
2 funds of the City of North Canton --

3 MR. PETERS: Did we lose Tim?

4 MR. FONTE: I hear him.

5 MRS. WERREN: I hear him.

6 MR. YOUNG: I can hear him.

7 MR. PETERS: Okay.

8 MR. FOX: You have me, Mr. President?

9 MR. PETERS: Yes, sir.

10 MR. FOX: Okay. All right. I'll start
11 again.

12 MRS. WERREN: I hear him.

13 MR. PETERS: Okay. I lost him for the whole
14 thing there. Could you read that again, Tim?

15 MR. FOX: I will.

16 An ordinance authorizing the appropriation of
17 funds of the City of North Canton to be appropriated
18 from the unappropriated resources of the general fund
19 for current experiences during the fiscal year ending
20 December 31, 2020.

21 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

22 Chairwoman Werren.

23 MRS. WERREN: Yes. We have talked about --
24 oh, go ahead, Dominic. Did you have something?

25 MR. YOUNG: This is Ben.

1 MRS. WERREN: I'm sorry, Ben.

2 MR. YOUNG: If I may make a clarification.
3 Last week, council amended out the line "from the
4 appropriated resources of the general fund."

5 MR. PETERS: Okay. Yeah, you're right. All
6 right. So let me -- all right. So it's authorizing
7 the appropriation of funds of the City of North
8 Canton to be appropriated for current expenses during
9 the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020; correct?

10 MR. YOUNG: Correct.

11 MR. PETERS: Okay. Chairwoman Werren.

12 MRS. WERREN: We have talked about this on
13 numerous occasions, and just a different allocation
14 for different funds. Any other questions?

15 MR. FOLTZ: No.

16 MRS. WERREN: Jina, any other thoughts?

17 MS. ALABACK: No.

18 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Nothing's changed.

19 Okay. So I move to adopt.

20 MR. FOLTZ: Second by Foltz.

21 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

22 ("Aye" in unison.)

23 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

24 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta abstain.

25 MR. PETERS: Cerreta abstains. Motion passes

1 6-0. All right. Thank you.

2 Moving on, may I have a motion and a second
3 to read by title only Ordinance 34-20.

4 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

5 MR. FOLTZ: Second. Foltz.

6 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

7 ("Aye" in unison.)

8 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

9 Tim?

10 MR. FOX: An ordinance amending Part Eleven,
11 Planning and Zoning, of the codified ordinances of
12 the City of North Canton, specifically Chapter 1181,
13 Amendments, as described below.

14 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

15 Chairman Revoldt.

16 MR. REVOLDT: All right. As we discussed
17 previously, we have two -- two pertinent amendments
18 in this ordinance.

19 The first is that we're going -- we're
20 placing responsibility for receiving applications and
21 tracking that application through the entire process
22 with the clerk of council. That's contained in
23 1181.02.

24 Second -- and this is important -- we are
25 requiring that there be a pre-application meeting,

1 and with the building department superintendent of
2 permits -- excuse me, building officer. And the
3 purpose is to prevent the project from moving too
4 far -- the cost of a project from accumulating before
5 the applicant really understands whether he can do
6 the project. So rather than have an attorney and go
7 through the entire process and have it appear in
8 front of the planning commission and spend a lot of
9 cash, we'd like to try to get -- try to get this
10 application reviewed or discussed prior to formal
11 submission. And that is -- that language is
12 contained in 1181.03. And that is it, Mr. President.

13 MR. PETERS: All right. Any comments?

14 MR. FOLTZ: No.

15 MR. PETERS: Is there a motion and a second
16 to adopt?

17 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz motions.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

19 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta seconds.

20 MR. PETERS: Cerreta second? All right. All
21 in favor, say "aye."

22 ("Aye" in unison.)

23 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
24 carries.

25 May I have a motion and a second to read by

1 title only Resolution 3-20.

2 MR. FOLTZ: So moved. Foltz.

3 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta. Second.

4 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

5 ("Aye" in unison.)

6 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
7 carries.

8 Tim?

9 MR. FOX: A resolution authorizing the pickup
10 of employee contributions for the voluntary purchase
11 of military service credit for the City of North
12 Canton eligible, full-time employees of the city's
13 Police and Fire/EMS departments, who are members of
14 the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, through a
15 payroll reduction pickup plan.

16 MR. PETERS: Okay. The city is offering
17 voluntary purchase of military service credit for the
18 certain full-time employees that qualify. This is
19 provided for in the Ohio Revised Code and the Ohio
20 Administrative Code.

21 Jina, anything to add further to add?

22 MS. ALABACK: Nothing further.

23 MR. PETERS: I'm sorry?

24 MS. ALABACK: No, I have nothing further.

25 This was by request of an employee. And so Ohio

1 Police and Fire require that the city approve this so
2 that we can do payroll deduction for him to purchase
3 his military time.

4 MR. PETERS: Okay. Outstanding.

5 All right. If there's no further comments or
6 questions, a motion and a second to adopt the second
7 reading of Resolution 30-20.

8 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

9 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta. Second.

10 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

11 ("Aye" in unison.)

12 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

13 Moving on to new business. May I have a
14 motion and a second to read by title only Ordinance
15 36-20?

16 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

17 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta. Second.

18 MRS. WERREN: Werren. Second.

19 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

20 ("Aye" in unison.)

21 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
22 carries.

23 Tim?

24 MR. FOX: An ordinance authorizing the
25 director of administration of the City of North

1 Canton to advertise and receive bids, according to
2 specifications now on file in the director's office,
3 for construction of sidewalk along the north side of
4 7th Street, Northeast, between Woodside Avenue and
5 Weber Avenue, (the "Project") and declaring the same
6 to be an emergency.

7 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

8 Member -- Chairman Fonte.

9 MR. FONTE: Yeah. So we talked about this
10 last week. So they just want to get bids to see what
11 kind of costs we're talking about. There's some
12 logistics to do as far as approvals and that kind of
13 thing. There's two pieces of sidewalk, one on Weber
14 that ends at Weber and -- let's see here. I'm trying
15 to think. It was Woodside, I think. It ended at
16 Woodside. So it stops at Woodside, picks up at Weber
17 and then there's a big gap between. So what they
18 want to do is just get a bid to see what we're
19 talking about. And that's what we're looking to do.
20 I move that we approve that if there's no questions.

21 MR. PETERS: All right. Do we have a second?

22 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta. Second.

23 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

24 ("Aye" in unison.)

25 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion

1 carries. Do we have a motion and a second to suspend
2 the rules of council for three readings?

3 MR. REVOLDT: So moved. Revoldt moves.

4 MRS. WERREN: Werren. Second.

5 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

6 ("Aye" in unison.)

7 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

8 And finally, a motion and a second to adopt
9 under suspension of the rules for Ordinance 36-20.

10 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

11 MRS. WERREN: Werren. Second.

12 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

13 ("Aye" in unison.)

14 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
15 carries.

16 May I have a motion and a second to read by
17 title only Resolution 31-20. Yeah.

18 MR. FOLTZ: No, it's 5-20.

19 MR. REVOLDT: I move we read 5-2020. Revoldt
20 moves.

21 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

22 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

23 ("Aye" in unison.)

24 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
25 carries.

1 Tim?

2 MR. FOX: A resolution declaring the City of
3 North Canton's --

4 (Auditory interruption.)

5 MR. FOX: -- necessity and intent, for the
6 purposes of constructing a safety service center, to
7 appropriate the fee simple title and interest in and
8 to the premises described in the general warranty
9 deed attached hereto and incorporated herein as
10 Exhibit A, and declaring the same to be an emergency.

11 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

12 Chairwoman Werren.

13 MRS. WERREN: Okay. That was not me. I
14 wanted to make that noted. Like, can we be clear
15 about that? Okay. I know --

16 MR. PETERS: Noted for the record.

17 MRS. WERREN: No. I want it noted that it's
18 not me, the only female. I would be proud --

19 (Cross-talk.)

20 MR. PETERS: Let the record --

21 MR. DEORIO: How is the court reporter going
22 to record that? How does that come through the
23 transcript?

24 MRS. WERREN: All I wanted is it noted it is
25 not me. I'm the one female. I'm not going to take

1 the blame.

2 MR. PETERS: You're right, Stephanie. I'll
3 concur with your assessment.

4 MR. FONTE: Let the record reflect that.

5 MR. PETERS: That did not sound like
6 Stephanie.

7 MR. FOLTZ: She's too much of a lady anyway.

8 MRS. WERREN: I'm sorry. I had to go there.
9 I'm so sorry.

10 We talked about this with the buying of
11 different properties and different line items that we
12 needed. Is there any more discussion for this?

13 MR. FOLTZ: No.

14 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Pat did a great job
15 explaining it last week, as well as Jina. If no
16 other discussion, then I move to adopt. Without any
17 exclamation points.

18 MR. FOLTZ: Second by Foltz.

19 MR. PETERS: All right. All in favor, say
20 "aye."

21 ("Aye" in unison.)

22 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
23 carries.

24 May I have a motion and a second to suspend
25 the rules of council requiring three readings.

1 MRS. WERREN: So moved. Werren.

2 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt seconds.

3 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

4 ("Aye" in unison.)

5 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
6 carries.

7 And finally, a motion and a second to adopt
8 under suspension of the rules.

9 MRS. WERREN: So moved. Werren.

10 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt seconds.

11 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

12 ("Aye" in unison.)

13 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
14 carries.

15 All right. Moving on. Department reports.
16 Deputy director of administration.

17 MS. FARINA: Thank you. I have no report
18 tonight.

19 MR. PETERS: All right, Catherine.

20 Director of administration.

21 MR. DEORIO: Yes. Thank you.

22 I would just add that perhaps over summer
23 break, if need be and I need to host a meeting in
24 order to purchase a property, that would be about the
25 only exception I could find, and those closings tend

1 to have a life of their own. But I think we're okay
2 through the summer break, but if something were to
3 change I'll let the council president know.

4 MR. PETERS: All right.

5 MR. DEORIO: That's my report.

6 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Patrick.
7 Mayor. You're up.

8 MAYOR WILDER: Good evening. Thank you,
9 President Peters.

10 I do have some closing comments. I want to
11 thank you for your oversight tonight on the
12 ordinances that have been presented, and resolutions.
13 I would just like to address the committee
14 reinvestment area passage.

15 Providing financial and tax incentives to
16 companies has become an accepted economic development
17 practice for states and communities to attract and
18 retain business. Understandably, this practice
19 continues to generate debate, push-back, and
20 criticism. In North Canton, we have locations of
21 geographic -- or geographic areas of our community
22 that need development or redevelopment. We are
23 taking actions in public investment demonstrating the
24 administration and council's commitment for community
25 and economic investment.

1 Incentives are not inherently good or bad,
2 right or wrong. They are economic development tools
3 that create tangible benefits for the community.
4 Incentives are an investment in our community and,
5 more often than not, incentives are the cost of doing
6 business in today's competitive marketplace.
7 Competitors, meaning other communities and states,
8 offer incentives and, therefore, to remain
9 competitive we must have incentives equal to or
10 greater than those offered by our competitors.

11 A community without incentives has a
12 difficult, if not impossible, task of competing.
13 Regardless of the pros or cons, the challenge to
14 government, business, and education, primarily our
15 North Canton city schools administration and the
16 board of education, will need -- will be to work
17 together to develop strategies that differentiate
18 investments as investments that all these, as I've
19 mentioned, for this community's future and not as
20 giveaways to business.

21 I'd like to also address the approval for
22 going forward with the bids for the 7th Street, as we
23 look to try to help our school-age children and
24 families in that area have better access to the high
25 school and in just walking in that area and getting

1 off the street there of 7th Street.

2 I want to pass on something about the -- from
3 the Stark County Complete Counts Committee chair,
4 Commissioner Richard Regula, with regard to the
5 census. As the chair of the Stark County Complete
6 Counts Committee for the 2020 census, he is
7 encouraging everyone to share with their communities
8 the importance of responding to the census. As of
9 June 19, the response rate for Stark County is 70.9.
10 Due to COVID-19, the census workers have not been
11 able to be out in the field collecting data in
12 person, so we are at risk of having a much lower
13 response than previously, which will negatively
14 impact all of our communities in a variety of ways.
15 It's about \$675 billion. The distribution of more
16 than that 675 billion in federal funds, grants and
17 support the states, counties and communities is based
18 on census data. That money is spent on schools,
19 hospitals, roads, public works and other vital
20 programs. The state of Ohio receives roughly
21 33.5 billion, with over a billion dollars going to
22 Stark County. That means with every uncounted
23 person, Stark County loses \$2,900 in funding.
24 They're asking us to get the message out through our
25 city governments that everyone needs to be counted.

1 As of June 17, 2020, our response rate right
2 now is at 77.8 percent of our community has responded
3 to the completing the census questionnaire. In 2010,
4 we were at 84 percent. It's very simple, folks, to
5 get the message out that all anyone has to do is
6 visit my2020census.gov to begin, and you can respond
7 online, respond by mail, or mail back a paper
8 questionnaire. And on their website they even have
9 the 12 questions that you can look at to prepare your
10 answers to complete that. As far as I know, the
11 completion date for that is October 31 of this year.

12 I just wanted to bring that to council's
13 attention, as you're talking with the constituents,
14 please remind them that that is important for us for
15 every dollar that can come back to help us out.

16 You know we're still dealing with the
17 coronavirus, and folks, remember, it doesn't
18 discriminate who we are or where we're from. I just
19 want to remind all of us when we're out and about
20 that the best way to prevent illness is to avoid just
21 being exposed to the virus. Maintain our physical
22 distance unless you're with your family. Make sure
23 that you keep your hands clean, wash your hands with
24 soap and water as they suggest, 20 seconds,
25 especially if you've been in a public place or after

1 blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. These are
2 recommendations, again, from the CDC. I've mentioned
3 maintaining a 6 feet between persons, especially if
4 they're sick, or someone even in your household. You
5 have to be very, very careful on that.

6 And the main thing is, I think when you're
7 getting out, from all I ever read that comes across
8 my desk, is just require face coverings for yourself
9 and your -- and your loved ones. I know if you're in
10 your office you may not be wearing it, but when
11 you're in public, if you can and it's safe for you to
12 do so, wear a facial covering. And again, that's
13 only if -- if it's -- if that's safe for you to do
14 so. It's highly recommended but it's not totally
15 required. However, some businesses may do so, so
16 just be cognizant of that. Maintain your own good
17 hygiene, just keep and sanitize your workplace and
18 what you do at home and just monitor your own health
19 and safety. Let's see.

20 MR. DEORIO: Mayor, did you want to mention
21 about the food market expansion?

22 MAYOR WILDER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. DeOrio.
23 I forgot.

24 Folks, we had a pretty good success with the
25 opening of our North Canton market and farmers

1 market. Again, if you haven't been up there, it's
2 located at the old Kmart, 1447 North Main Street.
3 It's been going for three weeks now on Wednesdays
4 from 3:00 to 7:00. The first hour from 3:00 to 4:00
5 is open for seniors or people who feel that they may
6 be at risk during the coronavirus that we're dealing
7 with. The first week we were open we had over 800
8 people. The second week we were open we had over 900
9 people. This last third week we had over 1,100
10 attending that North Canton farmers market. The
11 reviews have been very positive from the vendors and
12 the participants. And there is social -- physical
13 distancing and people are wearing their face masks as
14 they deem fit.

15 Good news is on July 11, we are making an
16 extension of the North Canton farmers market for
17 Saturdays. It will be at the same location, the old
18 Kmart location there, and we're going to do something
19 either like 9:00 to 1:00 or 8:00 to noon, but we had
20 some other farmers that contacted the coordinators
21 for this and they're looking to come on Saturdays and
22 this is going to accommodate, hopefully, those who
23 cannot get there on a Wednesday night but will be
24 able to provide something on Saturdays also. And
25 we're very excited about that, and I think that's

1 been going very well for our community. And it
2 speaks well for the organizers, the Grosschmidts, for
3 that, and it's been a nice addition and something a
4 little lighter to deal with as we've gone through our
5 daily tasks.

6 I do want our listeners to understand I am
7 sensitive to the Bitzer Park issue and, you know, it
8 is a beautiful park and it's located right in
9 downtown and it's adjacent to the Y and across the
10 street from the Hoover complex and easily accessible
11 from parking off of Maple and it has been a
12 foundation for us for many events that we've had
13 going on there.

14 And pardon me one second here.

15 And again, it's -- in 2012 there is a master
16 plan that talked about the development of that area.
17 And I know we're going through a lot of changes right
18 now and throughout our world. But I understand the
19 desire to protect our trees, and it's not unique.
20 And the redesigning of Bitzer Park has been discussed
21 for several years. I think the vision of the park
22 was to improve it to make it more useable, provide a
23 space for residents and visitors and the general
24 public can interact with each other and also have an
25 opportunity to take a look at the veterans memorial

1 that has been placed there. I think in the long run
2 we're just trying to create a better space for events
3 and people to engage in social activity, be it a
4 picnic, maybe it is a small concert or performance,
5 it could be just your reading circle or meeting a
6 family or friend member to have a cup of coffee. But
7 just a nice place where people can still congregate
8 and get together in the center of our town. I think
9 it adds a better sense of community and community
10 engagement.

11 I think careful consideration will still be
12 taken for the existing trees, plants, and shrubs.
13 There are trees in the park that will probably be
14 removed for various reasons. Maybe that they are
15 either unhealthy or unstable or in a general state of
16 decline, or it may be removed, as you know, as
17 redevelopment of that area if all the other options
18 are exhausted. And, yes, new trees could be planted
19 there, maybe low-maintenance trees or shrubs that
20 could dramatically reduce landscaping costs or other
21 things that may be affecting the park.

22 I think we're just trying to find some
23 optimal use for that, and however, sometimes the
24 trees will be felled. And, however, there is the
25 option to evaluate mature trees, as has been

1 indicated by our readers tonight, and they can be
2 preserved and precautions can be taken to have new
3 trees planted. So we have a small public park. And
4 it's in the center of our town and we want to see it
5 to be the best that it can be as an attractive piece
6 for their center.

7 It's been in partnership with -- under review
8 with the YMCA, the chamber of commerce, and the 13
9 people who served on that 2012 development, or
10 steering committee, and it could provide some other
11 amenities. Again, that could support event
12 programming or just increase community use. That's
13 all.

14 Folks, I know since 2008 we've been waiting
15 for the front lawn of the Hoover building at that
16 intersection of our Main and Maple streets to be
17 developed. I think the vision has always been to
18 have the lower floors of the building occupied,
19 having the front lawn being used, having an outdoor
20 extension of their ground-floor activities and, you
21 know, hopefully having something to the effect that
22 maybe outdoor cafes or walkway or benches or lights
23 and improved or renewed landscaping that would really
24 transform this -- this center of our town into an
25 active central green space and a vibrant little part

1 of our Main Street square. So even though that we
2 have -- haven't progressed as I think we wanted to
3 with that part of our downtown, I still believe it's
4 in our best interests to still go forward and look at
5 the redesigning or redevelopment of Bitzer Park to
6 make it more of a community location for us and for
7 community engagement.

8 So I do thank you for your time, allowing me
9 to share a few thoughts and concerns about it as we
10 go forward. So thank you very much for your
11 attention tonight. Thank you for those who are
12 watching for their comments.

13 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mayor.

14 Director of law.

15 MR. FOX: The mayor had very compelling and
16 timely comments and I could do no better than second
17 those. So I have no further report.

18 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

19 Director of finance.

20 MS. ALABACK: Thank you. I just have a
21 couple things.

22 I wanted to remind the public that Dogwood
23 Pool is opening July 1. There's more information
24 about passes and how they're addressing the social
25 distances on the YMCA's website.

1 Our audit report for this year, we did
2 receive -- I think every entity received a 30-day
3 extension so the filing is due June 30. And then the
4 audit of the CAFR will be done by July 30. So as we
5 finish those I'll be communicating hopefully a clean
6 audit report for the council to review.

7 And then my third and final item, the Office
8 of Budget and Management did communicate that the
9 governor signed House Bill 481 on Friday and they
10 have sent the distribution to the counties. Stark
11 County should receive \$11 1/2 million on Tuesday,
12 tomorrow, and then they have about seven to ten days
13 to distribute to each of the locals. So the City of
14 North Canton is estimated to receive about \$352,000
15 for very specific COVID-related expenses incurred in
16 responding to the public health emergency. So we
17 will be defining those and separating those into a
18 separate fund, which we did at last council meeting,
19 so we are all set and ready to go.

20 That's all I have.

21 MR. PETERS: All right. Good stuff. Thank
22 you, Jina.

23 Engineer Graham.

24 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. President.

25 I just wanted to touch base quickly on a

1 couple of our high-profile projects. One, first one
2 is our Applegrove resurfacing. You may have noticed
3 that our polymer surface asphalt has been applied.
4 I'm quite happy with how it's turned out out there.
5 We still have some striping to do at the North Main
6 intersection and also the Starcliff intersection.
7 We've got those stop bars and crosswalks and lane
8 arrows out there striped. That will be a little bit
9 of an interruption of traffic, but we're trying to
10 get them to do that after hours, keep that to a
11 minimum, but with this weather we kind of get what we
12 get.

13 Also, we still have, in the next couple of
14 weeks, about 30 manholes to adjust to grade with the
15 Mr. Manhole method. I know you've seen that where we
16 have the concrete ring kind of around it that we
17 color the dark color like the asphalt. So we'll have
18 a little bit of tie-ups with that one. Nothing in
19 the intersection except the striping.

20 You may have noticed that our Portage
21 resurfacing project started last week. Our
22 subcontractors in there doing all the concrete, ADA
23 curb ramp work. Weather permits, we should have that
24 wrapped up by the end of the week and then hopefully
25 in early July our paving contractor will get in there

1 and knock that out. That's the plan, but again, kind
2 of at the mercy of the weather and it's not looking
3 to be a very good week for us. But things are moving
4 along.

5 And if there's any questions, that completes
6 my report. Thank you, Mr. President.

7 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Rob.
8 Council Clerk Young.

9 MR. YOUNG: I have no reports this week.

10 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, sir.

11 All right. On to council reports.

12 Member Foltz.

13 MR. FOLTZ: Thank you.

14 Appreciate all the comments about Bitzer
15 Park. Unfortunately, I haven't been in town the last
16 two weeks as often as I'd like to be and I do want to
17 take another look at that. I think we look to our
18 residents, our constituents, even if we save a couple
19 more trees down there I think it's worth looking at.
20 I don't think it's going to hold the project up so I
21 do -- I would like to look at that a little closer.
22 I mean, it's not just the oak trees. Some of them
23 aren't in the best of health on some of the corners
24 both on Main and East Maple. But there's locust,
25 there's a buckeye tree, there's maples, there's some

1 trees within the park itself that are hopefully going
2 to be saved. Obviously I haven't gone out and really
3 walked it. I'd like to take a better, closer look at
4 that. I think it's a positive overall what we're
5 doing but I think we still need to be sensitive to --
6 to what we can do to keep mature trees if we can fit
7 it into a plan.

8 So those are my comments. Thank you. Hope
9 to revisit it.

10 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Doug.

11 I have a couple comments. First of all, I'd
12 like to thank council for approving the advertising
13 of bids for the sidewalk on 7th Street. I live in
14 that area. I see young children, adults walking that
15 street. It becomes a very dangerous situation,
16 especially when there are, you know, Jaycee Fair,
17 football games, that type of thing. We've had some
18 incidents in that area where folks had to walk in the
19 street, cars parked on the street, and it's all --
20 really only a matter of time before something really,
21 really bad happens down there. So I hope that once
22 we get these bids in we can find the money in the
23 budget and move forward with that.

24 And, Mayor, I'd like to thank you for your
25 comments as well regarding CRA, and a special thanks

1 to Daryl for all the work you've done. You really
2 simplified for us and for the community really, you
3 know, just the basic points and which made it a lot
4 easier for us to understand, and I appreciate your
5 work on that. And also Council Clerk Young for
6 facilitating the -- a few meetings and communication
7 between council and the school board. So that's it.

8 Member Werren. Steph?

9 MRS. WERREN: Hi. Sorry. No report. Just
10 thanks for everybody's explanation tonight, and,
11 Mayor, thank you for thoroughness in your report.

12 MR. PETERS: All right. Member Fonte.

13 MR. FONTE: Yes.

14 Thanks for all the input from our citizens
15 and the mayor.

16 Three things. I would just say it's probably
17 not a bad idea if we wanted to meet out at Bitzer
18 Park and take a look at the trees, but we are laymen.
19 So I'm all for trying to save as many trees as you
20 can but, you know, if it's -- if it's not efficient
21 to do that, which I can't tell myself, I would think
22 if we have an expert look at it that looks at it from
23 the proper eye we could still do the bandstand. I
24 think the bandstand is a great idea. I think we need
25 to have activities downtown. That goes with the

1 theme. But, you know, if we can save some extra
2 trees, let's consider that, guys and ladies.

3 Small business: Always remember they're the
4 backbone of our country. We're not all Fortune 100
5 or 500, so let's focus on making sure we promote our
6 local businesses.

7 MR. FOLTZ: Did we lose Dom?

8 MR. PETERS: Dom. I got you back. Go ahead.

9 MR. FONTE: Yeah. And I was just going to
10 say -- can you guys hear me?

11 So the farmers market is awesome. And then I
12 know there's been a food truck right there in the
13 back of our parking lot there at Cutler, sausage
14 sandwiches and so forth. I had one the other day; it
15 was really good.

16 So again, thanks for everybody's input, enjoy
17 the second day of summer and thanks for everything,
18 guys and ladies.

19 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Dom.

20 Member Revoldt.

21 MR. REVOLDT: Thank you, Mr. President.

22 Just responding to a couple comments. First
23 of all, I want to thank our citizens who present
24 themselves during public speaks. As many of you have
25 been in my home know that I've got trees that

1 surround my home that are 85 years old or older. In
2 fact, I probably have one of the largest hemlocks in
3 Stark County beside my home. But as I have been up
4 to Bitzer Park twice in the last week and I think, to
5 the law director's comment, we do have a liability
6 with the condition of the sidewalks and where the
7 sidewalks abut the curb. We have enough activity
8 there that we should be concerned about addressing
9 the sidewalks. I looked at the trees. At least four
10 of them are clearly diseased and should probably come
11 down. The others I do not believe will withstand the
12 reinstallation of sidewalks because the cuts will be
13 so deep.

14 The interesting thing is I happened to have
15 Joe's proposal for a tree commission. None of those
16 trees in question -- or I shouldn't say none, but
17 very few of them meet the requirements of tree
18 placement that Joe recommended. So as we look at
19 this, I think the important thing is, to Pat's point,
20 is we don't want to have to come back out and redo
21 this project in five years after some of these dying
22 trees have been taken down or come down. An 80-foot
23 tree is a pretty big tree. And they have a very
24 large root ball, and I think we need to acknowledge
25 that.

1 And again, while I appreciate everyone's
2 concern, I come back to this very fundamental point,
3 that that park is used for multiple public events. I
4 shudder to think at a recent event had someone
5 tripped on the curb and fallen into traffic what the
6 outcome might be -- might have been. So as much as I
7 would like to see those trees saved, I'm not
8 convinced that it's practical for a variety of ways.

9 Number 2 is this, and I thank the mayor's
10 comments on our CRA. We live in an unhistorical age
11 where we like to forget the past. But if you'll
12 indulge me for a minute, there was a nearby community
13 that went to great expense to rebuild major
14 thoroughfares with very expensive streetscapes. But
15 at the same time, the community walked away from its
16 CRA program and the development downtown and
17 industrial didn't occur. It went through nearly a
18 decade of virtually no growth and the situation was
19 aggravated when a major employer left town, putting a
20 significant dent in that city's revenues.

21 Well, the city did two things. First of all,
22 it figured out how to land bank property. And the
23 second, it brought back its CRA, and investment and
24 jobs returned to that city and contribute to its
25 current economic health.

1 I would draw everybody's attention to
2 Spitzer. What would -- what would our critics say if
3 a developer came to us and said I want to put a
4 \$10 million building on that site but I need tax
5 abatement. What would our response be? Would we let
6 it sit for another 15 or 20 years or would we try to
7 get it -- get brick and mortar on the corner?

8 I think that's the dilemma that we have. We
9 may not necessarily like this tool, but if it's used
10 wisely, as it was in the case of the municipality I
11 just described, it could produce huge long-term
12 benefits. So as I've argued before, the choice is
13 the status quo or investment in action.

14 That's it, Mr. President.

15 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Daryl.
16 Member Cerreta.

17 MR. CERRETA: Yeah, a couple things.

18 First of all, Steve had mentioned about the
19 census. Maybe we need to put a little reminder on
20 our water bill there for some folks maybe for the
21 next three months. It only takes about a line or so.
22 We can continue that to get those numbers up a little
23 bit.

24 Getting little comments on the Bitzer Park
25 here, and I'm really excited for the plan for Bitzer

1 Park. I think this is where I think we are getting
2 in the weeds with the trees here a little bit here.
3 I think what we're going to get out of this is just a
4 fabulous place that can be used for many, many years,
5 many generations for people, and as the new trees
6 grow it will be even better and better.

7 This is a park right now that's got a lot of
8 eclectic things. There's so many things in it. What
9 we're trying to do is reorganize this thing to really
10 house a lot of different events. Not only just with
11 the small concert venue there with the amphitheater,
12 but, you know, things like the YMCA, you know, kind
13 of reorganizing. Maybe they can do yoga classes.
14 Maybe the library has a lot more special kids
15 programs. You know, we'll have small concerts there
16 weekly during the summer, bringing people downtown
17 and help our community in general, and the new trees
18 will have a lot more power and electric to them so we
19 can light them up during the whole seasonal events
20 and everything.

21 It's going to be a very special place for
22 many, many generations, and fixing those sidewalks
23 and creating new things is a must to make this thing
24 the special thing that we'd need. So yes, we should
25 look at where we're going with that. We do need some

1 shade there, but I really think that the plan that is
2 in place right now, I'm excited for it, and I think
3 in the end it will be a place that we can be proud of
4 for many, many generations going down.

5 So that's my comments on that.

6 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you. Thank
7 you, Mark.

8 Member Stroia.

9 MR. STROIA: Hey, everybody. I want to thank
10 Chuck, Rita, Joseph for speaking. Thank you to the
11 mayor for your weekly address and your comments
12 today. And then along with what Mark is saying, if
13 we could put the my2020census on the water bill and
14 maybe on the city Facebook page, get some more
15 participation there. That's all I have, except for
16 maybe give a little bit of extra effort to support
17 your local businesses as Dominic says as well.

18 And also, yeah, Rob, the curbs on Portage
19 look great. I'm looking at it right now and
20 everything's looking good. So thank you, everybody.

21 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Matt.

22 Okay. Final call for new business. Council?
23 All right.

24 Seeing none, our meeting calendar, June 29 we
25 have committee of the whole; July 6, committee of the

1 whole; and July 13 will be city council meeting.
2 This will be our last meeting before summer break.
3 All of these will be via Zoom. And we return on
4 August 17 for committee of the whole. And, as
5 Patrick stated, if he needs us for purchase of land,
6 we will reconvene during that time.

7 Okay. At this time I'm going to need a
8 motion and a second to enter into executive session.
9 This is for the sole purpose of discussing,
10 conferring with the law director an ongoing legal
11 dispute involving the public body that is subject to
12 intimate -- imminent court action.

13 MRS. WERREN: So moved. Werren.

14 MR. REVOLDT: Second. Revoldt.

15 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta may be abstained for
16 this, I believe.

17 MR. PETERS: Yes. Yes.

18 MR. FOX: Yeah. You would like to abstain,
19 Member Cerreta.

20 MR. PETERS: Yes, you will. Let the Record
21 reflect that Member Cerreta will not be joining us in
22 executive session. All in favor?

23 MR. REVOLDT: We need a roll call on it.

24 MR. PETERS: Yeah, I'm sorry. You are right.

25 Ben, please call the roll.

1 Thank you, Daryl.

2 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren?

3 MRS. WERREN: Here.

4 MR. FOX: Yes. Affirmative.

5 MR. FONTE: We know you're here.

6 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt?

7 MR. REVOLDT: Yes.

8 MR. YOUNG: Member Fonte?

9 MR. FONTE: Yes.

10 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia?

11 MR. STROIA: Yes.

12 MR. YOUNG: Member Peters?

13 MR. PETERS: Yes.

14 MR. YOUNG: Member Foltz?

15 MR. FOLTZ: Yes.

16 MR. YOUNG: And Cerreta abstains.

17 MR. CERRETA: Abstains.

18 MR. YOUNG: Six for.

19 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you very much.

20 We are now in executive session.

21 Ben, I'll wait until you give me the
22 go-ahead.

23 (Council entered into executive session.)

24 MR. PETERS: All right. Okay. We got
25 everybody back? I need a motion and a second.

1 MR. REVOLDT: I move we adjourn the executive
2 session without action.

3 MR. FOLTZ: Second by Foltz.

4 MR. PETERS: All right. Roll call vote.

5 MR. REVOLDT: You just need a voice vote.

6 MR. YOUNG: Just a voice vote, yeah.

7 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

8 ("Aye" in unison.)

9 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

10 And as Daryl said, no action was taken. That
11 concludes this agenda. I'll entertain a motion to
12 adjourn this meeting.

13 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz motions.

14 MR. STROIA: Second. Stroia.

15 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

16 ("Aye" in unison.)

17 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

18 We are adjourned. Have a great evening,
19 everyone.

20 - - - - -

21 (Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.)

22 - - - - -

23

24

25

1 Attest:

2 
3 Benjamin R. Young
4 Clerk of Council

Daniel Jeff Peters
City Council President

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO)
)SS
STARK COUNTY)

I, Laurie Maryl Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that this meeting was by me reduced to Stenotype and afterwards prepared and produced by means of Computer-Aided Transcription, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription.

I further certify that this hearing was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee of or attorney for any party or counsel, or otherwise financially interested in the event of this action.

I do further certify that I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Canton, Ohio, on this 28th day of June, 2020.

Laurie Maryl Jonas

Laurie Maryl Jonas, RMR & Notary Public.
My commission expires January 6, 2022.